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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Second Committee (Part V)*

Rapporteur: Ms. Silvia Cristina CORADO-CUEVAS (Guatemala)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 96 (see A/51/604, para. 2). Action on sub-item (d) was taken at the 34th and 37th meetings, on 12 November and 2 December 1996. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/51/SR.34 and 37).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.2/51/L.19 AND L.43

2. At the 34th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Costa Rica (on behalf of the States Members that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and Colombia (on behalf of the States Members that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries) introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/51/L.19) entitled "Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development", which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 49/128 of 19 December 1994 and 50/124 of 20 December 1995,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/51/604 and addenda.

"Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/2 of 17 July 1996 on follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development,

"Acknowledging fully the integrated approach taken during the International Conference on Population and Development, which recognizes the interrelationship between population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development,

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/124,

"1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/124;

"2. Notes the actions taken so far by Governments and the international community to implement the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, encourages them to strengthen their efforts in that regard and requests them to fully implement all chapters of the Programme of Action;

"3. Reiterates that Governments should continue to commit themselves at the highest political level to achieving the relevant goals and objectives and to take a lead role in coordinating the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the follow-up actions at the national level;

"4. Urges all countries to consider, among other things, their current spending, with a view to making additional contributions in line with national priorities for the implementation of the Programme of Action, taking into account the provisions of chapters XIII and XIV thereof and the economic constraints faced by developing countries, in particular the least developed among them;

"5. Emphasizes that international cooperation in the field of population and development is essential for the full implementation of the recommendations adopted at the Conference; and in this context, calls upon the international community to continue to provide, both bilaterally and multilaterally, adequate and substantial support and assistance for population and development activities in all developing countries and regions, including through the United Nations Population Fund and other organs and organizations of the United Nations system, including the specialized agencies, that will be involved in the implementation, at all levels, of the Programme of Action;

"6. Reiterates the importance of South-South cooperation for the successful implementation of the Programme of Action, and invites all Governments, relevant United Nations organizations, including specialized agencies, the business community, the private sector and non-governmental organizations, to continue to support those activities in South-South cooperation being undertaken by the developing countries;

"7. Emphasizes the importance of the identification and allocation of financial resources by all members of the international community, including regional financial institutions, to enable them to fulfil their commitments with regard to the implementation of the Programme of Action;

"8. Reiterates that the Commission on Population and Development, as a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council, has the primary responsibility for the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development and review of the implementation of the Programme of Action;

"9. Decides that the Task Force on Basic Social Services for All of the Administrative Committee on Coordination shall inform the Commission and the Economic and Social Council of the progress of its work, for the purpose of system-wide coordination;

"10. Requests the Task Force to coordinate the development of appropriate indicators, taking into account relevant research, so that progress in addressing reproductive health needs by individual countries can be assessed on a reliable basis;

"11. Decides that its special session, to be convened from 23 to 27 June 1997 for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, should give due attention to the issue of population in the context of sustainable development;

"12. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution;

"13. Decides to include in the agenda of its fifty-second session, within existing clusters, the item entitled 'Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development'."

3. At the 37th meeting, on 2 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Mohammad Reza Hadji Karim Djabbary (Islamic Republic of Iran), introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/51/L.43), submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.19.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.43 (see para. 7).

5. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States of America made a statement (see A/C.2/51/SR.37).

6. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.43, draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.19 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/128 of 19 December 1994 and 50/124 of 20 December 1995,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/2 of 17 July 1996 on the follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development,

Acknowledging fully the integrated approach taken during the International Conference on Population and Development, which recognizes the interrelationship between population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/124,[1]

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/124;

2. Notes the action taken so far by Governments and the international community to implement the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[2] and encourages them to strengthen their efforts in that regard;

3. Reiterates that Governments should continue to commit themselves at the highest political level to achieving goals and objectives and to take a lead role in coordinating the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the follow-up actions at the national level;

4. Urges all countries to consider, among other things, their current spending priorities, with a view to making additional contributions in line with national priorities for the implementation of the Programme of Action, taking into account the provisions of chapters XIII and XIV thereof and the economic constraints faced by developing countries, in particular the least developed among them;

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[1] A/51/350.

[2] Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

5. Emphasizes that international cooperation in the field of population and development is essential for the implementation of the recommendations adopted at the Conference and, in this context, calls upon the international community to continue to provide, both bilaterally and multilaterally, adequate and substantial support and assistance for population and development activities, including through the United Nations Population Fund, other organs and organizations of the United Nations system and the specialized agencies that will be involved in the implementation, at all levels, of the Programme of Action;

6. Reiterates the importance of South-South cooperation for the successful implementation of the Programme of Action, and invites all Governments, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, as well as the private sector and non-governmental organizations, to continue to support those activities in South-South cooperation being undertaken by the developing countries;

7. Recognizes the efforts of Partners in Population and Development in strengthening the capacities of developing countries in South-South cooperation;

8. Emphasizes the importance of the identification and allocation of financial resources by all members of the international community, including regional financial institutions, to enable them to fulfil their commitments with regard to the implementation of the Programme of Action;

9. Requests the Economic and Social Council to continue to give guidance on matters concerning harmonization, cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system regarding the implementation of the Programme of Action;

10. Reiterates that the Commission on Population and Development, as a functional commission assisting the Economic and Social Council, has the primary responsibility for monitoring, reviewing and assessing the implementation of the Programme of Action, and emphasizes the need for the Commission to continue its work in broadening its focus so as to fully reflect the Programme of Action;

11. Invites the Secretary-General to ensure that the Task Force on Basic Social Services for All of the Administrative Committee on Coordination informs the Commission and the Economic and Social Council on the progress of its work, with an emphasis on the improvement of the impact of programme delivery for the purpose of system-wide coordination, and stresses the need for close cooperation and timely reporting by all the working groups of the Task Force;

12. Emphasizes the importance of the ongoing efforts of the Task Force to develop, on an urgent basis, appropriate indicators as reliable means for monitoring the progress of the implementation of the Programme of Action, with special attention to the reproductive health needs of individual countries, taking into account relevant research and development work as well as existing data collection systems in developing countries, and to make this information available as it is developed to the Commission on Population and Development, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

13. Endorses the continuation of coordination and collaboration between the Task Force and the appropriate United Nations entities responsible for the development of statistics;

14. Reaffirms that the follow-up to the Conference, at all levels, should take fully into account that population, health, education, poverty, patterns of production and consumption, empowerment of women and the environment are closely interconnected and should be considered through an integrated approach;

15. Recommends that the special session for the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, which will be convened from 23 to 27 June 1997, should give due attention to the issue of population in the context of sustainable development;

16. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution;

17. Decides to include in the agenda of its fifty-second session, the sub-item entitled "Population and development".